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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,656	02/13/2002	Hubert Baumgart	IN-5554	7707

26922 7590 06/20/2005

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EXAMINER

SERGEANT, RABON A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1711

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/049,656

Applicant(s)

BAUMGART ET AL.

Examiner

Rabon Sergeant

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21,23,25-37,42 and 43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21,23,25-37,42 and 43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but prior to a decision on the appeal. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 2, 2005 has been entered.
2. Objection is made to applicants' amendment of May 2, 2005, because the faxed copy received is unclear with respect to the text in general and especially the text of the claims that is to be deleted. The "strikethrough" lines or notations are not readily discernible.
3. Claims 21, 23, and 25-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Firstly, it is unclear how the "at least" language within lines 7 and 8 of claim 21 are to be interpreted. Since the two ethyl groups and the two hydroxyl groups are positioned according to the recited two number combinations, it is unclear how the additional substitution patterns denoted by "at least" are to be interpreted or explained. The existence of these additional patterns does not seem possible.

Secondly, within claim 30, it is unclear if "linear", "branched", "block", "comb", "random", and "core/shell" are each intended solely to modify the "microparticles" language. In other words, is the claim language to refer to structures other than different types of microparticles?

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 21, 27-31, and 33-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 00/15725.

The reference discloses polymeric coating compositions wherein diethyloctanediol is disclosed as a reactant. See page 15, line 10. Though the reference fails to disclose the particular isomer used, the claims are considered to be met despite applicants' argument, because the claims encompass all position isomers.

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6. Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

7. Claims 21, 23, 25-37, 42, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 19826715.

The reference discloses coating compositions derived from 2,4-diethyloctane-1,5-diol. See abstract. Despite applicants' arguments, the abstract clearly discloses the curing of a polymerizable composition comprising the compound derived from 2,4-diethyloctane-1,5-diol, and the position is taken that the resulting polymer satisfies the "two or more monomer units" limitation. Despite applicants' remarks, the reference allows for polymerizing the argued diethyloctanediol derivative; therefore, the resulting polymer contains the argued monomer units.

8. Claims 21 and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 778924.

The reference discloses polymeric compounds produced from 3,6-diethyl-1,8-octanediol. See page 4, lines 55 and 75-85. The position is taken that the skilled artisan would immediately envisage the use of the saturated diethyloctanediol within the disclosed polymers at page 4, lines 83-85. Furthermore, the position is taken in view of a polymer's definition requiring repeating units that the disclosed polymers inherently satisfy the argued "two or more monomer units" language.

9. Claims 21, 23, 25-37, 42, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by EP 940459.

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The reference discloses coating and adhesive compositions derived from various diethyloctanediols, including 2,4-diethyloctane-1,5-diol. See page 2 and claims.

10. Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

11. Within polymeric systems, it is uncommon for weight average molecular weights and number average molecular weights to be equivalent; therefore, it is common for the polydispersity of such systems to exceed unity, often by a considerable margin; therefore, with respect to the rejections set forth within paragraphs 5-10, though the relied upon references fail to specifically recite applicants' claimed polydispersity range, the position is taken in view of the breadth of the claimed range and the preceding rationale that the claimed polydispersity range is inherently met by references. Applicants have not established that the prior art compositions possess polydispersity values outside of the claimed range.

12. Claims 21, 23, 25-37, 42, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/15725 or DE 19826715 or GB 778924 or EP 940459.

As aforementioned, the references disclose the use of diethyloctanediol in the production of polymers, suitable for use as coatings and adhesives.

13. Though the references fail to disclose each of applicants' claimed isomers, the position is taken that it would have been obvious to utilize any isomer of diethyloctanediol in the production of polymers, based upon the teachings of the references. The basis for this position resides with the expectation that compounds that have a close structural similarity possess similar properties.

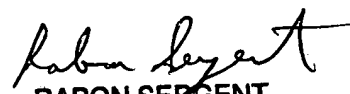
In re Wilder, 563 F.2d 457, 195 USPQ 426 (CCPA 1977). *In re May*, 574 F.2d 1082, 197 USPQ

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601 (CCPA 1978). This position is bolstered by the fact that the utility and function of the argued compounds within polymerization reactions were well understood; therefore, the skilled artisan would have had a reasonable expectation of success in substituting one compound for another.

14. Applicants' response has been considered; however, it is not seen that the response adequately rebuts the position that compounds having close structural similarities are expected to possess similar properties and, as a result, are obvious in view of each other. Applicants' argument that different structures may have different reactivities and rates of reaction is insufficient to distinguish compounds having such close structural similarities. In fact, given the similarities of the respective compounds and the absence of evidence to support applicants' aforementioned position, applicants' argument is considered to be more speculative than factual.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to R. Sergent at telephone number (571) 272-1079.


RABON SERGENT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

R. Sergent
June 15, 2005